

February 27, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, February 27, 2012 at 5:05 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman
Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer
Ron Animashaun
Larry Dugas
Jake Giardina
Greg Nolan

Absent: Dr. Darby Chiasson

Also present were: Lamont Domingue, Attorney; Cliff Bingham, OCPR Attorney
Barry Marrineaux, OCPR Attorney; Michael Somme, CDM
Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers; David Plater
Henry & Mattie Templet; Steve Shaw-Bayou Rowing; Robert Mire
Bruno Deleo; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session at 5:07 p.m. to discuss pending litigation entitled Byron Latina vs. Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, et al, 23rd Judicial District Court, Parish of Ascension, State of LA, Docket Number 00102574C, and Eric Weil et al vs. Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, et al 23rd Judicial District Court, Parish of Ascension, State of LA, Docket Number 00102631C.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved to reconvene the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved to accept the representation of the District by attorney Barry Marrineaux, and provided that the District receives written assurance from the CPRA of our indemnification in defense of the petitions that have been filed, and reimbursement of all costs to Mr. Marrineaux by CPRA.

Mr. Chaisson stated that Mr. Smith's assistant will be in the Donaldsonville area Wednesday and Thursday of this week to contact the remaining residents for the tree planting. Mr. Smith advised that there was some discussion about other trees besides cypress trees.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of January 17, 2012, January 31, 2012, and February 4, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the accounts payable for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Michael Somme, CDM, gave an update on the CIAP money. He advised that President Obama's 2013 budget that was proposed two weeks ago recommended a deduction in CIAP money for

\$200 million. Mr. Somme stated that if the funds are obligated meaning that if they have been awarded to a project then it can't be reduced. Mr. Somme stated that a proposal from the District to CPRA is needed, basically the scope of the project, action plan, schedule, and cost category. Because of this new urgency and that the State doesn't want to lose any funds, they want the proposal by April 9th. Mr. Somme advised that any additional conditions that we would like added to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is due by April 23rd, and the draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is due by May 21st.

Mr. Somme stated that the project scope must be in accordance with the preliminary design study that was done by CPRA, which is the Mississippi Reintroduction study. Mr. Chaisson stated that he has put together a list of the different studies.

Mr. Somme advised that the project scope will not include any operations and maintenance related work. The District will be required to adhere to and perform all operations and maintenance work as required in the final Operations & Maintenance plan developed by CH2. No expenses for operations and maintenance work will be funded with CIAP. Expenses for the engineering and design of the project will be limited to 10% of the total amount funded for the project. The final draft of the Request for Qualifications needs to be submitted to CPRA prior to advertising. The District would also be required to submit to CPRA the preliminary design final report, including plans and specs and all other final submittals received from the consultant. The District would be required to submit a written statement and intentions after completion of the engineering design phase. The State wants the project completed, closed out, and everything submitted by December 31, 2014. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Mr. Somme to e-mail him the components of the proposal.

Mr. Somme advised that the main importance right now is they need the proposal by April 9th because the State does not want to lose any money.

BAYOU OPERATIONS

CREWS: The harvesters cut up to Labadieville then were pulled. One harvester had minor maintenance done on it, and was put at Leighton to begin cutting at the weir going north. The second harvester was brought to Wetlands for major repair on the conveyor support racks. Both support racks were rusted out with the conveyor chains beginning to get hung up and breaking. The rear frame was the worst with not only the frame rusted out, but the supporting metal rusted out. Both pieces will have to be reworked. That frame system will have to be redone before the rack can be reinstalled. I hope to have the machine back in the water the last week of February.

Second crew is working with the tug clearing hydrilla and lilies south of Thibodaux to Lockport. From Raceland to Lockport, the clearing is on the hyacinths.

EQUIPMENT STATUS: Boats: Mud boat back from Hanko's and will have the engine reinstalled and be operational by the end of the week.

PUMP STATION:

RIVER STAGE: Beginning month: 21.8; Ending Month: 17.0; Current Stage: 20.90

PUMP OPERATIO:No. Days Siphon: 21; No. Days Pumping: 10

Station Maintenance: General maintenance, yard work, and painting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. McIntire's family was set on the \$ 95,000 price so we agreed since it was under the appraisal. Begun the work to have the property title researched, and hope to have the final papers signed by the beginning of March. Once we have possession of the building, we can have Rodrigue's Electric come in and repair the weather head and reestablish electrical service with Entergy. From there, we can complete the minor repairs to the building's skin, pressure wash, and get it ready for the move in.

On 31 Jan we met with Lafourche's public works director, Kerry Babin to discuss the lily problem in the bayou between Raceland and Valentine. The game plan is Lafourche parish will spray the area using their certified personnel, boat. Our only participation will be to loan Lafourche our spray equipment since it is a direct injection setup that doesn't require a huge mix tank. At the Parish Council meeting on 14 Feb they adopted a cooperative endeavor agreement. I'm told it states the BLFWD will supply the boat, workers, and equipment with the parish only supplying the chemicals. This is exactly opposite of our meeting on the 13th. I'm trying to get a copy of the agreement from the parish, and see where the change from our meeting occurred.

Mr. Chaisson advised that we got the applications in today for the vacancies at the pump station, and Eric and he looked over them. Interviews will be set up Thursday of this week, and hope to have them hired by the second or third week of March.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson advised that he sent all the information out to the Board regarding the USGS gauges, and he didn't get any feedback. Chairman Caffery stated that until we fully understand and have a goal of what we want in monitoring the bayou, he wants to hold off on the purchase of the gauges. Chairman Caffery asked the Board for their input. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that the price seems high to him, and he isn't exactly sure of what we would get for that amount of money.

Mr. Chaisson explained where all the gauges would be placed and what functions they would have in order to monitor the bayou. Commissioner Jake Giardina recommended putting off the purchase until we know exactly what we would do with the gauges.

Mr. Chaisson asked if we could get the Marchand Bridge gauge. This would give us information coming off of that north part of the railroad station. Mr. Chaisson stated that the gauges would cost about \$14,000 for the equipment purchase, and yearly maintenance of \$7,000.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved to purchase the USGS gauge for the Marchand Bridge.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux stated that he feels we are in dire need for a new tug boat to put on this side of the weir. He advised that some minor changes would be needed, such as a larger fuel tank, fuel gauge, rudder indicator, a raised exhaust system, and a larger heat exchange. Commissioner Thibodaux stated that \$300,000 has been budgeted for it.

Mr. Chaisson stated that Robert and he looked at the plans and specs on the tug we have right now, and the fuel tank would have to be modified, and the other items would have to be looked at by the engine company. Chairman Caffery advised that we would need an updated design and cost. Mr. Chaisson advised that Gary Jones designed the last plans and specs.

Mr. Stevie Smith advised that he distributed to the Board a draft Master Plan for the future of Bayou Lafourche. The Master Plan is a report based on the summit retreat that was held a few weeks ago. It is similar in format to the document they put together after the summit. It is reflective of the discussions that the Board had at Nicholls. It has a narrative section that describes the recommendations that were developed by the Board at the retreat. There is a table for the recommendations that were capital projects so there is a five year capital budget.

Mr. Smith that that this Master Plan is presented in draft form, and he asked the Board for their review and comments. Chairman Caffery advised that the Board can review it and contact Stevie if they have any comments, and come back to the next meeting for approval. Mr. Smith stated that they assumed that the District would have to come up with a 25% cost share when we are able to get money from other entities.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve two permit applications for A T & T Communications, Inc., 5565 Hwy. 311, Houma, LA. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Plater asked if there was any plan to continue the studies for the bacterial pollution in the bayou. Mr. Chaisson stated that Dr. Kilgen is working with Jesse Means and DEQ, and he thinks they have more money to do more detail analysis. Mr. Plater stated that there is an absence of a study of individual homes.

Chairman Caffery advised that the biggest effort we have is to have the Bayou Lafourche cleanup sponsored by BTNEP. That will be the first big public effort that will take place that could begin a crest of wave of awareness of the bayou. Chairman Caffery commended Mr. & Mrs. Templet and Mr. Steve Shaw because they are the first wave of this cleanup.

Chairman Caffery recommended allocating some funding for the get-togethers for the cleanup to supply water, sandwiches, and refreshments to help facilitate this Bayou Lafourche cleanup. Mr. Chaisson stated that he will check with Alma at BTNEP to see what they may need, and to convey to them the strong willingness on behalf of the Board to do this.

Mr. Steve Shaw stated that the trees that were cut are now floating in the bayou. Chairman Caffery advised that those trees are probably not the ones that were cut during the project.

Mrs. Hattie Templet stated that what is happening is the water level went up, and when it came down it is picking up trees that the District has been trimming and putting on the banks of the bayou. Mr. Chaisson advised that he doesn't think it is coming from what we did because the smaller stuff is shredded through the chipper. Mrs. Templet stated that it could be damaging to their boats, and it could be dangerous to the motor boats speeding by. Mr. Chaisson stated that lately they have been seeing railroad cross ties coming down the bayou from bulkheads that are washing out.

Chairman Caffery stated that we need to identify the source of it is which will be part of the cleanup. Ms. Templet advised that she has pictures of the trees, and will e-mail them to Archie.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer